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ABSTRACT

This document describes a Polish program that enables students and teachers to experience state government on a personal level. Fifty students and ten teachers were invited to Warsaw (Poland) for five days to participate in didactic games, simulations, and meetings with social activists, politicians, civil servants, and journalists. The project's evaluation examined these experiences closely, describing activities and reactions from participants along with shortcomings of the project. Chapters include: (1) "'Civis Polonus' Project Proposal"; (2) "Sources of Finance"; (3) "Participants Recruitment"; (4) "Detailed Project Timetable"; (5) "The Project As Seen By the Participants and the Organizers"; (6) "Evaluation of the Project's Organization"; (7) "Evaluation of the Substance of the Project"; (8) "Evaluations of the Participants' Behavior"; (9) "Plans for the Future"; and (10) "Recapitulation." An appendix includes the statute of the "Civis Polonus" Foundation and the program's evaluation. (EH)

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1994

PROJECT EVALUATION

Civis Polonus

So 024 549

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I. 'Civis Polonus' Project Proposal

1. Introduction

The young people in Poland have rather poor knowledge of the principles of operation and structures of the state's government. Every citizen of the Republic has in fact the awareness of the existence of the President, the Sejm, the Senate, the Council of Ministers, the Supreme Court as well as of the Constitutional Tribunal, however the scope of their competencies and their interrelations are not commonly known. The best way to understand the principles of operation of the democratic state is undoubtedly a direct observation of its institutions and participation in the decision making process. The youth is the social group, who despite the fact that have no possibility to fully take part in the democratic life, should be getting ready to participate in creating of the democratic state.

Civis Polonus project creates such an opportunity. During five days, fifty students and ten teachers invited to Warsaw will be taking part in didactic games, simulations, meetings with social activists, politicians, civil servants and journalists.

The authors of the Project are on the position that a student during his/her school education should have an opportunity to collect experiences, which remain in his/her memory longer than the teacher's lecture. The presented Project, in addition to intellectual experiences, is supposed to provide the students with such practical experiences and through this generate interests in participating in the democratic life in their own community.

As other countries' experiences show, a project of this type will allow to deepen students' knowledge on the Polish Republic political system and near the way of its functioning. There are some good examples such as Presidential Classroom, The Close Up Foundation, The Washington Workshops, or Boys State projects, that have been carried out for years now in the USA, and that have become the inspiration for this Project authors.

2. Project objectives

During the Project the participants will :

- familiarize with the principles of a democratic state operation
- meet representatives of the government in Poland
- be presented with the youth activity forms in local communities
- have an opportunity to present their problems to politicians
- get familiar with a decision making process in a democratic state
- have an opportunity to come in contact and integrate with their

community - develop an active, outstanding group of the youth leaders, participating in the future Civic and Economic Education Center and Civic Education Teachers Association projects.

Long Term Objectives :

- initiate local projects based on Civis Polonus
- prepare the participants to carry out public activities within local communities
- increase students activity in school and local communities
- get the state institutions interested in promoting the knowledge on democracy within youth communities
- promotion of youth activity forms
- integration of active young people - create community representation.

3. Project implementation

A. Participants recruitment

The Project addresses the youths and the teachers from all over Poland. We predict the participation of 50 students and 10 teachers. The Project can be taken part in by a student satisfying the following requirements :

- is a student of 2nd - 3rd grade of the secondary school
- obtained an average of the marks for the first semester minimum 3.5 (on the scale between 0 through 6)
- will present a written permission of his/her class reaffirmed by the tutor.

Expecting the higher number of applications, the organizers will qualify the participants considering their activity in the local community. Hence each candidate fulfilling formal requirements will submit a brief description of his/her social activity. An example can be evidence of the student's involvement in the school self- government, an association, club, etc., as well as a description of the student's initiatives in the local community. The teachers will be asked to send over a personal questionnaire complemented with a brief description of achievements on civic education. The setup where the teachers teach at the same schools as the participating students, will be preferred, or live in the same place.

B. Timeline :

- Applications for the Project will be sent by 1st May, 1994. After this date the qualification of participants will take

place.

- By 20th May all the participants will obtain a complete set of materials concerning the Project.

- The Project is to be implemented in Warsaw during 6th-11th June 1994.

4. Supporting Consultants

Civis Polonus Project success is to a large extend dependent on the constant collaboration with the consultants. The Project authors have arranged assistance of the American experts involved in similar projects implementation in the United States. They are:

Bert Cieslak, Director of Educational Outreach, Close Up Foundation
Nila Vehar, Executive Director, Presidential Classroom for Young Americans

From the Polish side there will be academic communities and institutions that collaborate with the Project representatives asked for consultation.

5. Project evaluation

The Project evaluation will consist of the participants' opinions, as well as of the organizers and independent experts. Those opinions will be collected and included in the folder recapitulating the Project. As it is the very first project of this kind, the authors attach a special importance to its evaluation, hoping that this will contribute to creating more excellent form of the project.

6. Plans for the future

The authors of the Project think, that the participation in the Project will contribute to popularization of the knowledge on the Polish Republic political system. In the future we predict running of local projects, based on the teachers and the students taking part in Civis Polonus Project.

Within the framework of subsequent editions of the Project, exchange of Polish and American students is planned.

We hope that Civis Polonus Project will become the permanent element of civic education in Poland. The organizers assume that the Project is to be continued over the next years, with an increased number of participants.

As the Project recapitulation a brochure will be released presenting the Project's idea, a description of undertaken activities, and the opinions of the participants and of the lecturers. The brochure will, at the same time, be a promotion

material useful for the next editions of Civis Polonus Project preparation.

II. Sources of finance (funding)

The organizers of Civis Polonus have approached a significant number of organizations who support civic education, with a request to help in financing of the Project. The discussions were held among others with the representatives of :

- Children and Youth Foundation
- PHARE Fund
- 'Poland in Europe' Foundation
- Batory Foundation
- The Mershon Center, The Ohio State University
- National Endowment for Democracy
- United States Information Agency
- United Nations Development Programme

As a result of those discussions the organizers have obtained sponsorship from two sources:

- United States Information Post, the American Embassy in Warsaw;
- The Batory Foundation.

In addition to that the financial help has been obtained from the Mershon Center, this fund the organizers decided to use for the preparation of the next year's project.

It should also be emphasized the help, that Civis Polonus Project has obtained from the CODN (Central Center for Teachers Improvement) and from the RP Senate Information Bureau.

III. Participants recruitment

The organizers have obtained 473 applications from secondary schools students from all over Poland. Information about the Project had been distributed via methodic centers, school superintendent's offices, directly to schools, and in some regions of the country the local press had presented the idea of the project.

Each candidate subject to the essential evaluation had to satisfy the following three formal requirements :

- be a secondary school student (2nd/3rd grade)
- obtain an average of minimum 3.5 marks for the first semester
- present a written class permission for the participation in the project and the tutor's confirmation.

In addition to that each participant presented his/her activity in the local community. The last criterion, having fulfilled the formal requirement, had a decisive meaning.

A commission called from among the organizers, have selected the participants. The first stage of selection was based upon rejecting of the application which did not satisfy the formal requirements. 120 applications were qualified for the second stage, with the most interesting characteristics of community activity. Of those 120 applications, the organizers commission selected (by the system of points) finally 52 student applications and 10 of teachers'.

Although that the organizers were aware of the value to qualify 'setups' - a student (students) and a teacher from one (the same) community, the decisive criterion after all was an individual social/civic activity, rather than just the fact of creating such a 'setup'. Preferred were people coming from small towns, rather than big cities (but that was not the rule of course).

Both in organizers' and participants' opinion, the way of recruitment was very good. There were really very active and involved in work for their local communities people who came to the Project.

The only disadvantage was too small a number of the teachers' applications. In their case one may talk about rather negative selection.

An indication for the future is better advertising of the Project and reaching more potential participants - especially teachers, with information on Civis Polonus.

Of the inquiry carried out by the organizers at the end of the Project (59 questionnaires were returned versus 69 issued, what is 85.5% of the whole) results that the majority of the participants were 3rd grade students of a secondary school (2/3), mostly from
Polish general secondary schools, humanities classes. People from technical (engineering) and vocational secondary schools were in decisive minority (10%). There were more boys than girls.

IV. Detailed Project Agenda

Day One - 06.06.1994	
Time:	
breakfast:	8.30
morning:	
- official opening	9.30 - 10.30
- group meeting, integration game,	10.30 - 13.00
- break	
- afternoon:	
- lecture 'Power Division in a Democratic State' Marek Nowicki Ph.D. - Chairman Helsinki Foundation of Human Rights	14.30 - 16.00
- splitting onto and forming senate commissions	16.00 - 16.30
- group forum	16.30 - 17.30
dinner:	18.00 - 19.00
evening: - going out to the cinema	20.00
Day Two - 07.06.1994	
breakfast:	8.30
morning :	
- meeting with politicians - representatives of different political options	10.00 - 12.30
The topic is to be the future Poland's constitution. (took part : Donald Tusk, Wieslaw Chrzanowski, Ryszard Bugaj, Wit Majewski)	
break:	12.30 - 14.00
afternoon:	
- lecture 'Polish Political System' - interrelationships between central government bodies; Prof. Tadeusz Moldawa - Dean of Journalism and Political Sciences Department of the Warsaw University	14.00 - 15.30
- simulation 'The Story of a Certain Parliamentary Act' - explaining the procedure of voting over a parliamentary act;	15.30 - 16.30
- work in senate commissions	16.30 - 17.00
- meeting with Lucyna Bojarska - a Students' Rights Spokeswoman in Warsaw	17.00 - 18.30
dinner:	18.45 - 19.30

Day Three - 08.06.1994 :	
breakfast:	8.00
morning : 'The Senate Debate' - simulation - sightseeing of the Seym and the Senate - work in 'senate commissions', development of protocols and reporters statements - plenary debate (participation of invited guests MPs and senators was predicted) - voting on the act proposal - discussion on the course of the simulation, assessment of the voted act, and of the consequences of its implementation.	9.00 - 14.30
break:	14.30 - 15.30
afternoon: - a meeting with the Ombudsman Prof. Tadeusz Zielinski	15.30 - 17.00
dinner:	18.30 - 19.30
evening : - group forum	19.30 - 20.30
Day Four - 09.06.1994	
breakfast:	8.00
morning : - Warsaw sightseeing - lecture 'Executive Power Systems in Poland and in the World' Prof. Lech Falandysz - The RP President's Chancellery Deputy Chief	9.30 - 10.30 10.30 - 12.30
break:	12.30 - 14.00
afternoon : - a meeting with The Prime Minister representatives sightseeing of The Council of Ministers Office (The topic is to be decision making at the governmental level.) - simulation 'A Difficult Decision'	14.00 - 16.00 16.30 - 18.00
dinner:	19.00
Day Five - 10.06.1994	
breakfast:	8.00
morning : - a meeting with the Supreme Court press spokesman on the scope and competencies and role of the court in a state (the Supreme Court building) - a meeting with mass media representatives: meaning of 'the forth power' in a democratic system	9.30 - 10.30 11.30 - 13.00

break:	13.00 - 14.30
afternoon :	
- a meeting with young leaders of Warsaw community; discussions on various forms of activity and on a possibility of adapting them in local communities	14.30 - 16.00
- group forum	16.00 - 17.00
dinner:	17.30
evening :	
- farewell banquet - official termination of the Project.	19.00

V. The Project as seen by the participants and the organizers.

1. Arrival Day

The Project participants began coming over to Warsaw already in the morning on 5th June (Sunday). At once after the arrival, there was an opportunity to quarter at the Vocational Education Pupils' Hostel at 18/20 Dluga Street (each participant together with the materials relevant to the Project, sent over by post before the Project started, was also provided with the exact plan of this part of Warsaw and a description of the bus connection to the hostel. At 20.00 hrs, a meeting between the organizers and the participants was held (at this point in time the majority of the participants have already arrived), where the timeline of the Project was briefly discussed. The participants were handed over the Project regulations, and dinner coupons. By 24.00 (midnight) all the participants from outside of Warsaw have arrived (59 of the 60 invited; one person got ill and called off her arrival).

The participants put up in 2-5 persons rooms, separately women and men.

Instructions:

1. Organize free (leisure) time for the ones who came to Warsaw earlier.

2. Day One

(a) morning - official beginning; integration activities;

The course the activities:

At 9.30 the Project was officially started by the organizers in the aula of the Central Teachers Improvement Center (CODN). The participants were greeted during the start up and the invited guests introduced, the goals and objectives of the Project were reminded and the exact Civis Polonus timetable together with a list of the participants with information about their accommodation at the hostel was handed over. The organizers also answered the participants' questions concerning the Project.

At 10.15 integration activities ('ice-breaking') began. At first the participants took part in number of integration games with psychodrama elements. The games were designed for any number of people taking part - both for two (pairs) as well as for the all participants.

The second part of integration activities consisted of improvised interviews with selected participants. Both the reporters and the persons giving interviews were the participants. Due to the lack of time only 10 interviews were carried out. The activities ended at 13.15.

Participants' observations:

An average mark for this point of the program amounted 4.6 (using school 6 degrees scale), in addition to that the activities were regarded as very useful. The games were particularly liked by the teachers-participants, since many of them can be carried out in their own schools. All the participants noticed that there were only 10 interviews carried

out.

Organizers' comments:

The integration activities have well fulfilled their role. The games forced the participants to break interpersonal barriers, come into contacts with other people. Solving assignments in small, chosen by random groups, have contributed to the better mutual getting known of the participants. The interviews were carried out in a very professional way (some participants edited students' newspapers) and got interest of the whole group.

Instructions:

1. Create an opportunity to introduce themselves at the forum of the group for the possibly largest number of people.
2. Interleave integration games with participants introductions.

(b) afternoon - the lecture by Marek Nowicki Ph.D. on "The Division of Power in a Democratic State'; establishment of the senate commissions.

The course of the activities:

On the invitation of the Project organizers Doctor Marek Nowicki of the Helsinki Human Rights Foundation gave a lecture, during which he presented the idea of the three-division of power in a democratic state. The main topic of the lecture was preceded by an ample introduction on human rights and their position in the contemporary concepts of a democratic state. The subject matter of the lecture was met with a great deal of interest from the participants. Many questions were asked on specific issues and an informal discussion lasted for a long time after the official closure of the lecture.

Participants' observations:

The participants regarded the lecture as very useful, and its attractiveness got the highest mark (5.54 at the 6 degrees scale). All the participants were under the impression of the lecturer Mr Marek Nowicki's personality. His competence, the manner of the lecture presentation and good communication with the audience were admired.

Organizers' comments:

Doctor Marek Nowicki's lecture was carried out perfectionally and made a great impression on the listeners. It is this kind of a lecture - led in a close contact with a recipient, we would like to have more during the Project. A valuable complement to the lecture were the participants questions.

Instructions:

1. Lenghthen the time allocated to the questions after the lecture. Perhaps it would be worth while to arrange a spontaneous discussion with the lecturer instead of a traditional answer/question session.

(c) evening - going out to the cinema

The course of activities:

The participants who expressed the will to do so, watched a film entitled 'Backbeat' that was a filmed version of The Beatles biography. The film began at 20.00. The return to the hostel took place at 10.30pm.

Participants' comments:

Not all of the participants were satisfied with the choice of the film. The teachers observed that although the film was allowed for 15-agers, there were scenes typical for the films for adults only. The participants in general regard that point as rather useful and its attractiveness was marked 4 (at a 6 degrees school scale).

Organizers' comments:

Due to the fact that most of the participants came from small, quite often deprived of the cinema small towns, an occasion to see the film (a new one in fact) was a good entertainment. However, it was rather difficult to satisfy the tastes of all the participants.

Instructions:

1. Going out to the cinema should be placed somewhere in the middle of the program, rather than on the first day.
2. The choice of the film should be done more thoroughly to satisfy the participants' tastes as much as possible and at the same time to avoid ticklish situations resulting from the plot of the film itself.

3. Day Two

(a) morning: a meeting with politicians, representatives of various political options

The course of activities:

Present were Messrs: Ryszard Bugaj - Union of Work Chairman; Wieslaw Chrzanowski - Christian - National Union Chairman; Wit Majewski - an MP of the Democratic Left Alliance; Donald Tusk - Union of Liberty Vice-Chairman. The meeting was about the future constitution of RP and particular political parties postulates concerning its shape. Each of the invited guests had 'five minutes' for a presentation of his vision
of the fundamental law. Then the politicians were answering questions from the audience, and also were discussing among themselves.

Participants' comments:

The meeting with the politicians was regarded as very important and its mark was 5.14. Attraction to the politicians reflected personal political likes and dislikes of the participants. The students remarked that the teachers present at the meeting, sometimes deprived them of the chance to ask questions. It is meaningful the some teachers expressed exactly the same opinion about the students.

Organizers' comments:

In case of this sort of meetings a lot depends on the personality of invited politicians. In this instance the choice can be regarded as quite right albeit not excellent.

Instructions:

1. Improve working of microphones for the audience, or ask the per- sons giving answers to repeat the questions first.
2. Define the role of the teachers at the meeting so that the students could have a chance to ask any questions they want.
3. Due to a great need of the discussions of this kind, repeat the meeting with different guests.

(b) afternoon - Prof. Tadeusz Moldawa's lecture on 'Polish Political System - Interrelations Between Central Government Bodies';

The course of activities:

The lecture given by Prof. Tadeusz Moldawa explained theoretical foundations for the coexistence and functioning of the central organs of power. In the first part of the lecture Professor Moldawa presented the central institutions and then discussed their responsibilities and rights. At the end were presented interrelations between various power organs and their mutual connections. After the lecture the participants had an opportunity to ask questions.

Participants' comments:

Some of the participants regarded this lecture as 'boring' and 'too long'. The students' statements showed clearly, that a negative mark is the result of a lecturer's attitude. An average mark was 4.18 and this point of the program was regarded as very needed.

Organizers' comments:

It seems to us that the subject of the lecture constitutes an essential complement of the 'practical' side of the program, allows to see the state as a network of institutions and links between them. However, the choice of another lecturer should be taken into consideration - perhaps it ought to be a 'practical' man rather than a political scientist dealing with central institutions from the theoretical side.

Instructions:

1. Consider the possibility to change the lecturer.
2. Ensure better microphones and loudspeakers.
3. Allocate more time for asking questions; shorten the duration of the lecture.

(c) 'The Story of a Certain Parliamentary Act' - a simulation game.

The course of activities:

Based upon the text showing various forms of citizens activity undertaken during the works on the antiabortion act, the participants of the Project were simulating the course of the formal legislative process as well as the impact of various

institutions, associations and citizens groups representing the public opinion.

They then assumed the role of the public opinion representatives and developed a script of action they would undertake in protest against the proposed act they do not agree with.

Participants' comments:

Marked very good (average 4.97). In the participants opinion this kind of a workshop is very needed and was an excellent introduction to the simulation in the Senate.

Organizers' comments:

The simulation activated the Project participants, unfortunately there was not enough time for a more deepened discussion on the real impact of the public opinion onto legislative process.

Instructions:

1. Lenghthen a little the time allocated for the simulation or give up some part of it for the benefit of the final discussion.

(d) evening - meeting with Lucyna Bojarska - the Students Rights Spokeswoman in Warsaw.

The course of activities:

Lucyna Bojarska the Students Rights Spokeswoman from Warsaw was talking about her actions involved with organizing of the movement for drugs abuse counteraction. In her statements she stressed the point that a lot more in this matter can be done by nongovernment institutions, only supported by the government, and how important in this case is the youth attitude itself. The participants had an opportunity to ask questions, of which mostly the teachers took advantage.

Participants' comments:

In the participants opinion this meeting was an 'interesting' experience. Nevertheless the students seemed slightly unprepared for a discussion about the role of nongovernment institutions.

Organizers' comments:

Lucyna Bojarska good personal contact with the group resulted in the success of the meeting. Undoubtedly it was a mistake to let the teachers dominate the final fragment of the discussion.

Instructions:

1. In the materials sent over to the participants before the Project, give the topic to be mentioned during the discussion.

4. Day Three

(a) morning - 'The Senate Debate' - simulation

The course of activities:

On the very first day of the program the participants were divided onto three groups - 'senate commissions'. Each 'senator' got a set of materials containing information about the tasks and commissions structure and senator's responsibilities. As a result of particular commissions debates were chosen: chairmen, secretaries and candidates for the senate marshall. The candidates had a chance to briefly present their persons.

On the third day 'Civis Polonus' participants were guests at the Senate. Student participants had an opportunity to vote a fictitious amendment to the act, complying with the whole senate procedure : starting from the senate commissions meetings, through the plenary debate, up to the voting in the Senate debate room (the teacher-participants could only watch the whole simulation, though they tried to secure the right of vote). The simulation ended with success, despite that some of the students misunderstood the voting rule and voted contrary to their intentions. The simulation was completed at the hostel the same evening.

In addition to that the participants sightsaw the Seym and the Senate and met the Senate Vice-Marshall - Prof. Zofia Kuratowska. The simulation was accompanied with a lot of interest from mass media (information were published in major national newspapers and broadcasted in national television news. One of the participants said that day - with kind of an excitement: "we are all over the media!").

Participants' comments:

The whole visit at the Senate was referred to as 'ingenious'. The students emphasized their serious treatment by the Senate Chancellery officers, their involvement and devotion during the simulation. In the majority opinion it was an ideal lesson of civic education, and assuming the roles of senators made a great impression. The students did not like the attempts to comment the game by the teachers and their efforts to get influence onto it. The participants marked the visit at the Senate at 5.84 (at a 6 degrees scale) and all of them regarded it as very needed.

Organizers' comments:

All the elements of the game were performed almost perfectionally. One can dare say that the Senate game was the most significant moment of Civis Polonus Project; it generated a great deal of positive emotions both in the organizers and the participants.

Instructions:

1. Eliminate a possibility of a negative influence on the game from the teachers' side.
2. Lenghthen the visit at the Senate as much as possible, even at the cost of other meetings.

(a) afternoon - a meeting with the Ombudsman - Prof. Tadeusz Zielinski;

The course of activity:

The meeting took place at the Ombudsman's Office in Warsaw.

The first part of the meeting was devoted to the Ombudsman's responsibilities (the participants listened to a short lecture and watched a film showing the Ombudsman's Institution); during the second part the participants had an opportunity to ask questions.

Participants' comments:

The participants' opinions with regard to the meeting with Prof. Zielinski were divided. The average mark was 4.18, but the meeting was regarded as very needed - Prof. Zielinski's personality made a great impression on the participants. Some technical drawbacks were emphasized (microphones/loudspeakers, too small a room).

Organizers' comments:

The meeting with the Ombudsman had a slightly unfortunate date (due to the Ombudsman's responsibilities another date was impossible), and the evaluation was influenced by the amount of impressions from the Senate and the resulting fatigue of all the participants.
The meeting however, can be regarded as successful and interesting for the young people.

Instructions:

1. As far as possible do not organize a meeting with the Ombudsman following very exhausting activities.

(c) evening - a meeting with the guests from United States - Nila Vehar (Presidential Classroom) and Bert Cieslak (Close up Foundation)

The course of activities:

The meeting took place at the Vocational Education Pupils Hostel. Each of the guests made a presentation of their activities in the States and then answered the participants' questions.

Participants' comments:

The meeting was very important. It allowed the participants to get familiar with some activities similar to Civis Polonus Project, carried out in United States. The students had an opportunity to get 'the first hand' information on American experiences, as well as to ask many personal questions to Nila and Bert.

Organizers' comments:

Nila Vehar and Bert Cieslak were at first regarded as a 'little accessible', soon afterwards thanks to Nila and Bert's efforts and meeting the participants allowed to change the situation. Since then none of the participants has been 'afraid' of a conversation with the guests from America.

Instructions:

1. Meetings with the guests from abroad should certainly be organized much earlier. In this way the participants will have a chance to come into interpersonal contact with the guests much earlier and will be able to break psychological barriers. On the

other hand the guests will have an opportunity to better integrate with the group.

5. Day Four

(a) morning - sightseeing of Warsaw;

The course of activities:

The participants were divided into two groups and were given an opportunity to see the Old Town during one hour and a half lasting excursion. The two groups were taken care of by the guides from the Royal Castle Guides Office.

Participants' comments:

The excursion was regarded as quite necessary, and its average mark was 3.81. (The excursion was first of all interesting to the people who were in Warsaw for the first time or so far had no opportunity to sightsee Warsaw with a professional guide.)

Instructions:

1. In the place of the Old Town sightseeing on foot, organize a coach excursion around Warsaw.

(b) Prof. Lech Falandysz - the RP President Chancellery Deputy Chief lecture on - 'The Executive Power Systems in Poland and in the World';

The course of activities:

The meeting lasted for two hours: first part was a lecture by Prof. Falandysz and in the second the participants had a chance to ask questions. The lecture constituted a presentation of the major concepts of presidential power as an institution, and also discussion of the most important problems of Lech Walesa presidency.

Participants' comments:

The meeting with 'such an important person' was an emotional experience for the enquired. There were however some students opinions that the lecture was slightly too long and 'consumed' time for questions. In general, the meeting was regarded as very needed and the average mark was 4.25.

Organizers' comments:

The choice of the lecturer proved to be very accurate. Professor Falandysz as the Deputy Chief of the RP President's Chancellery, was able to, thanks to the given examples, near the real problems involved with the presidential office and Lech Walesa's presidency,
to the participants.

Instructions:

1. Ensure Prof. Falandysz participation in the future editions of Civis Polonus.

(b) afternoon - a meeting with the employees of the Council of Ministers Office (URM);

The course of activities:

During the meeting with a deputy director of the Prime Minister cabinet together with a several other URM clerks, the participants were asking questions concerning both the URM competencies as well as broader issues of the government coalition politics. The hosts of the meeting were trying to avoid answering the questions referred to as 'political', suggesting that the objective of the meeting was to find out about the structure and the activity of the URM. This resulted in atmosphere of the further part of the meeting being stronger influenced by the youths' political preferences than other activities. At the end of the meeting at URM the government debate room was shown to the participants.

Participants' comments:

The participants were very much disillusioned with the URM clerks attitude. The meeting was marked at 2.34 (according to a school 6 degrees scale).

Organizers' comments:

The meeting showed that the participants felt the need of a discussion on the governments politics rather than on the structure of URM and competencies of its clerks. The participants

also expect that the hosts of such a meeting will be the persons directly responsible for the shaping of the politics, such as the Prime Minister or someone of the ministers.

Instructions:

1. For the next edition of the Project, prepare activities devoted to a discussion on the current government politics.
2. Make efforts, regardless of the failure in this edition, to convince the Prime Minister, someone of the ministers to take part in Civis Polonus.

(c) 'A Difficult Decision' - a simulation game;

The course of activities:

During the workshop, the participants were divided into 6-persons teams, in which three people played the role of the government representatives and the other three - of the trade union and a strike committee. The simulation was about the government negotiations with trade unions under a strike situation.

Participants' comments:

Some of the participants suggested the simulation should take place in the government building. The game was regarded as very needed and the average mark was 5.31.

Organizers' comments:

A simulation in this form should be present in future Civis Polonus editions. The most important drawback was the lack of a proper premisses to carry out the simulation.

Instructions:

1. Improve the technical aspects of the simulation: printing of the materials, choice of the premisses.

(c) evening - a meeting with Jerzy Owsiak, the organizer of the greatest charity action in Poland - The Great Orchestra of Holiday Help;

The course of activities:

Jerzy Owsiak is an unquestioned authority among the young people. Through his activity and manner he has captured the hearts of the youths. It was like that at the meeting with Civis Polonus participants. The youths asked Jurek many personal questions, which he answered willingly. He himself told them about the necessity of action and successes that can be achieved by one's own activity. The meeting ended with autographs giving out and common posing to a photograph.

Participants' comments:

In the participants' opinion it was a 'magnificent' meeting, despite that was a surprise and was to some extent held off the program (Jerzy Owsiak did not wish any renown, and till the very end it was unclear whether his duties would let him to meet with Civis Polonus). Jurek Owsiak, in the youth and teachers opinion, has liberated in them some new forces for action, strengthened

the conviction about the rightness of acting for the good of others.

Organizers' comments:

The contact with Jerzy Owsiak has undoubtedly generated the positive impact on the participants. The guest's personality caused that the meeting was just one great entertainment, although quite serious things were discussed.

It is worth while to stress the fact of convergence of the goals of Jurek Owsiak and Civis Polonus organizers actions (bearing in mind of course the differences resulting from the form of activity and of the ways of presenting of those goals).

Instructions:

1. Arrange better microphones/loudspeakers.

6. Day Five

(a) morning - a meeting with the Supreme Court press spokesman, on the scope of competencies and the role the judiciary power in the state;

The course of activities:

The meeting was of a lecture character on the role of the judiciary power in the state and the position of the Supreme Court within the judiciary structure. Thanks to the skills and involvement of the lecturer, the young people reacted very lively to the problems discussed, asking many questions proving their interest in the issues. Due to lack of time the participants couldn't ask all of the questions and were slightly disappointed by that.

Participants' comments:

All the participants of the meeting with the Supreme Court press spokesman were very happy of it. Regarded it as very needed. They only complained about the lack of an opportunity to ask questions (the meeting had to be terminated on time because of the guest's duties). The average mark was 5.08.

Organizers' comments:

The Supreme Court spokesman Mr Kauba has proved to be a very good lecturer able to come in contact with young people. The Project participants in turn showed a lot of interest for the legal issues, that are almost absent in Polish general education schools.

Instructions:

1. Continue the collaboration with Mr Kauba.
2. Consider the possibility of expanding the part of the Project that deals with judiciary power in Poland.

(b) a meeting with representatives of the 'forth power' in a democratic system;

The course of activities :

There were three guests present on the meeting: Mrs Anna Bikont -

Gazeta Wyborcza (the biggest national paper), Mr Maciej Domanski - Director of Channel 2 of Polish National Television, Mr Jacek Wojcicki - Chief of Political Section of Major TV News - 'Wiadomości'. The whole meeting was devoted to a discussion between the invited guests and the Project participants.

Participants' comments:

The meeting with the 'fourth power' the participants marked 5.29, and all consider it as very needed. Good contact with the guests was emphasized, who fully answered each question. They only regretted that not all of the invited guests were able to take part in the meeting.

Organizers' comments:

The receiving of the Project from the mass media was very good. The guests invited to the meeting seriously treated the participants answering many direct questions.

Instructions:

1. Surely such meetings ought to be organized in the future.
2. Establish collaboration with Mr Maciej Domanski.

(b) afternoon - a meeting with young leaders of the Warsaw community; group forum;

The course of activities:

The meeting provided the participants with an opportunity to exchange ideas and present their own activity in the local communities.

Participants' comments:

In the participants opinion this meeting was quite necessary, although many stated that it could have been cancelled. First of all because that not all of the invited guests had come and secondly those present were not talking in an interesting way. The average mark of this point amounted 3.7.

Organizers' comments:

Similar type of meetings should be organized in the future. However its form and the choice of invited guests should be thought over.

(c) evening - official closure, farewell banquet;

The banquet was prepared by the representatives of the Warsaw Youth Forum. During the banquet the diplomas were distributed and the Project was officially closed. A point should be made about a very emotional character of the ceremony.

7. Departure Day

Saturday, 11th June, was the day of departure. By 20.00 hrs all the participants left the hostel building.

VI. Evaluation of the Project's Organization

The participants had an opportunity to evaluate the Project in anonymous evaluation questionnaires provided by the organizers. Of 69 participants, 58 have returned the filled in questionnaires.

As far as the organization of the Project is concerned, negatively evaluated was the 'overloading' ("tension") of the program. This has been pointed out by almost one third of the participants. The most often disadvantages and drawbacks complained about were also lack of warm water (due to unexpected maintenance of the water supply system in this district of Warsaw) and 'fast food' served for lunch from McDonald's and Burger King. It has to be observed that both advocates and opponents of "fast food' were more or less in the same number. Some of the participants suggested arranging a bus in the future so that the people taking part in the Project could move freely. In addition to that lack of free time during the day was also pointed out, as well as no time to really prepare for some of the activities, stiff time frameworks of the program and the role of the teachers not clearly defined. The last issue was also raised by the teacher-participants. It has to be marked up that four people (boys) regarded meals as insufficient, complaining of 'malnutrition'. During the program however, no one has approached the organizers raising this problem.

There were more positive comments about the organization of the program than the negative ones. 25% of the participants, who have returned the questionnaires, are of the opinion that the program was 'well organized'. They pointed out 'non-wasted time' i.e. thin- king over of the program, thorough scheduling and friendly and positive attitude of the organizers towards the participants. In addition to that it was noticed that the organizers had met the program assumptions.

To the positive aspects of the organization were also included the fact of inviting people fro all over Poland, diversified form of activities, good accommodation location (city center near Old Town) and the ability of organizers to efficiently solve problem situation.

Instructions:

1. Plan the course of the program in such a way so that a couple of hours of 'free time' were available at the participants own disposal.
2. Better organize feeding system, i.e. as far as possible give up 'fast food' meals and introduce extra portions for the people who need them.
3. Introduce relaxation activities during the program.

VII. Evaluation of the substance of the Project

The Project was evaluated very positively with regard to the choice of contents. In student-participant opinion the only thing missing was no contact with judges of the Constitutional Tribunal, and the teachers raised the lack of contact with a representative of the Ministry of National Education.

Some of the participants regarded 'lack of economical issues' as a substantial fault. However, it has to be pointed out that familiarization of the students with economical problems was not the Project objective (this is only a hint that similar program on economical topics would meet the young people interests). Apart from of that some of the participants complained about the lack of a serious cultural program i.e. going out to the theater or to the opera.

Some students and teachers made a point about no chance of a broader presentation of their activity in local communities. In addition some participants complained about 'too long' lectures making impossible asking all important questions to the guests.

In the evaluation of the substance of the Project some negative remarks with regard to specific elements of the program could be found. Most negative marks got the visit to the Council of Ministers Office, that was completely non-prepared by the clerks despite re- quests and help offers from the organizers' side. Similarly, though a bit better, were evaluated the meeting with the youth leaders of Warsaw and Prof. Tadeusz Moldawa's lecture, who was accused of 'boring' presentation of the topic.

There were also single, negative opinions about improper preparation of some parts of the program such as for instance 'A Difficult Decision' game. Those were however, just postulates with regard to some detailed questions of the program items.

As far as positive comments to the contents of the program were concerned, the participants pointed out the large number of simulation games as well as enabling meetings with known personalities of the public life. In particular, the visit at the Senate and Doctor Marek Nowicki's lecture, the meeting with politicians and with Jerzy Owsiak were especially praised and regarded as very important and necessary. In general,'integrating theory and practice' was the most important advantage of Civis Polonus.

Instructions :

1. Expand the program of a 'cultural event' (theater, opera).
2. Expand the program of a visit to the Constitutional Tribunal and/or Ministry of National Education (at least for teachers).
3. Organize meetings at the central institutions, as far as possible.
5. As far as possible, invite to lecture people with significant didactic experience, who can arise the audience interest.
6. Ask the lecturers to shorten the lecture so that the

participants had more time for asking questions.

Civ. Pelsus

VIII. Evaluation of the participants' behavior

The student-participants while evaluating themselves stated that the organizers had made the right choice. The Project was joined by active, intelligent people with various interests, curious of the world and of what is going on around them.

The only negative issue raised with regard to the interrelations between the participants were relations with the representatives of the Youth Forum from Warsaw. The participants from outside of Warsaw not infrequently stressed the 'cutting off' of that youth group from the rest. Such perceiving of the Youth Forum group, resulted perhaps from the role the group performed during the program. Well, according to the organizers' assumptions, they were assisting the program organization, hence one could sometimes notice the contradiction of the roles they were supposed to play (i.e. participant versus organizer) that in effect caused increasing of the distance between them and the other participants.

In addition to that some of the participants pointed out excessive talkativeness of some people. The students raised the problem of a reprehensible behavior of one of the teachers, who in their opinion abused alcohol and sometimes behaved rudely to the participants. One of the teachers also commented on too excessive freedom as to the sleeping hours choice by the youths.

In general the young people were not satisfied with the teachers behavior, who - in their opinion, talked too much, sometimes disturbing the young people participation in the program. It is meaningful that there were also teachers' opinions that their role in the program (read - opportunity to talk) was too small.

However, positively were evaluated among other things: the ease to come into contact with other people, lack of competition in negative sense, personal culture of the participants, responsibility, punctuality, discipline. In addition to that a remarkable group of the enquired ones stressed that all the participants were strongly committed to the program and active during the program activities.

It has to be mentioned that the participants very positively accepted the manner of the foreign guests and of the organizers, which was referred to as 'treating the youths as partners'.

Instructions:

1. Better define the role of the Youth Forum (a group of students from Warsaw), so that their tasks involved with the program organization would not create a bad image to the rest of the participants.
2. Pay closer attention to the teachers behavior.
3. Ensure to comply with the night silence in a more decisive way.
4. Limit the teachers role in the program by creating alternative activities (the teachers only).

IX. Plans for the future

Civis Polonus Project organizers strongly believe that economic development of the country is strictly involved with a growth of its citizens' civic awareness and that by the same token civic education is now one of the most important problems facing Poland.

The organizers are going to establish a foundation that among other things would deal with organization of the Project (see ANNEXURE - Statute of the Foundation).

Civis Polonus Project will be organized once a year. The organizers intention is that regional programs based on Civis Polonus idea would be organized in different parts of the country by the participants of the central program. The long term objective is to set up a network of regional programs such as for instance, 'A day in the Local Community Government Office (Urzad Gminy)', or all sorts of meetings with local administration officials or councilors. Arrangement of many such programs will enable to make civic education more interesting, and as Civis Polonus organizers believe, will cause that many more young people will understand the idea of local democracy and of a democratic state.

The organizers will be inviting active young people (among others local program organizers) from all over Poland to take part in the central Civis Polonus program, held once a year.

X. Recapitulation

Civis Polonus Project evaluation carried out by the participants is in general very positive. However, due to a piloting character of the Project, some mishaps and also shortage of finance, some of the mistakes and shortcomings were inevitable. Nevertheless this Project experiences will allow for better and more efficient organization of the like in the future.

Assessing the need of running this sort of programs, the participants stated this kind of activities is very needed. Among the reasons of such an assessment the participants most often mentioned the following :

- 'it's an excellent way to present a subject','attractive way of learning';
- 'I've seen the things, I'd have never ever seen without the program';
- 'this program releases new forms of activity among the youths';
- 'enables to meet people - of our own age, and also "people of power"';
- 'provides impressions, "energy" for acting'.

The participants asked about their possible involvement in arranging similar programs at a local level (provincial) stated in accord that they would be helping to organize such programs. Nobody has refused, and only two people were not sure whether their duties would not hinder them from organizing of a program.

The participants asked about the need of such programs pointed out at similar reasons as in case of Civis Polonus, adding that 'everybody has the right to acquire knowledge in this way' and knowing local institutions, their functioning is as equally important as of the central institutions.

In the participants' opinion the most serious obstacles in running local Civis Polonus programs can be first of all the lack of money, an then young people apathy (reluctance to undertake activity) and the local authorities lack of understanding for the need of such a program ('underestimation of a program potential').

Civil Petition

ANNEXURE

The STATUTE
of
The 'Civis Polonus' Foundation

Chapter I
GENERAL REMARKS

Section.1.
A foundation under the name of 'Civis Polonus Foundation', further on referred to as 'the Foundation', established by Cezary Trutkowski, Tomasz Masny, Jacek Kowalski and Jacek Krolikowski, further on referred to as 'the Founders', by deed executed and authenticated at the Public Notary Office in Smolna 40 Street in Warsaw, date August 9th, 1994, is acting based upon the regulations of the act of 6th April, 1984, about foundations (Parliamentary Acts Journal of 1991, No 46, item 203) and by the provisions of the present Statute.

Section.2.
The Foundation has a legal status.

Section.3.
The abode of the Foundation is Warsaw - the capital city.

Section.4.
1. The Foundation's area of operation is the territory of the Republic of Poland.
2. For a proper accomplishment of social and economic goals, the Foundation may carry out operations outside of the Republic of Poland.

Section.5.
The Foundation uses a circular stamp with an inscription in the rim, stating its name and abode.

Section.6.
The Foundation can establish badges and honor medals and confer them together with other awards and prizes, to the people and legal entities meritorious to the goals elected by the Foundation or to the Foundation itself.

Chapter II
GOALS AND PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION

Section.7.

The Foundation Goals are :

1) popularization of knowledge related to civic education, and development civic attitudes among young people, in particular;

2) gathering financial means and material resources in order to maintain and develop the Foundation and its projects;

3) development of contacts with domestic and foreign communities involved with activity on a civic education field;

4) concentrate around the Foundation's idea scholars, educators and social activists in this country and abroad;

5) popularize experiences and ideas related to civic education created in other countries of the world;

6) acting for the benefit of broader than so far, getting interested various environments, organizations and institutions in the problems of civic education.

Section.8.

The Foundation accomplishes its goals throughout :

1) organizing and financing :
   - education programs
   - international exchange
   - conferences, seminars, workshops, training courses, performances and competitions at home and abroad;

2) carrying out propagators, information and editorial activities on civic education;

3) collaboration with education institutions, scientific and social organizations acting within the scope covered by the Foundation goals, as well as domestic and foreign collaboration with individuals showing interest in the Foundation goals;

4) running economic activity at home and abroad in line with the law regulations and the resolutions of the Statute.

Section.9.

To accomplish its goals the Foundation may support activity of other legal entities, whose activity is in accord with the Foundation goals.

Chapter III
FOUNDATION'S ASSETS AND INCOMES

Section.10.

The Foundation's assets constitute the Opening Fund amounting 20 000 000.- zl (twenty million zloties) cash assets plus financial means, fixed assets and assets acquired by the Foundation during the course of its activity.

Section.11.

The Foundation is liable with all its capital.

Section.12.

The Foundation's incomes originate in particular from :

a) grants, inheritance, legacy,
b) legal entity subventions,
c) collections and public performances,
d) active (circulating) and fixed assets,
e) economic activity carried out by the Foundation.

Section.13.

Incomes originating from subventions, grants, inheritance and legacy can be used for accomplishment of all Foundation goals, unless otherwise stated by the donors.

Section.14.

In case of appointing the Foundation to be hereditary, the Management makes a statement about acceptance of the legacy with benefit of inventory, and only then, when at the moment of making the statement it is apparent that the net assets of the legacy significantly surpass the liabilities.

Section.15.

Individuals and legal entities who make grants or subventions for the Foundation, single or total amounting more than 200 000 000 zl, or in case of foreign persons, USD 10 000.-, are granted, if they wish, a title of the Foundation's Sponsor.

Section.16.

The title of a sponsor has a personal character.

Chapter IV
FOUNDATION ORGANS

Section.17.

The Foundation Organs are :
- The Board of the Foundation
- The Management of the Foundation.

Section.18.

The Foundation Board constitute :
a) individuals or legal entities invited to take part in the Board activities by the Management members acting together and accepted by other Board members.
b) Sponsors or their representatives, provided they have their abode on the territory of the Republic of Poland and will submit, during one month time span, starting on the date they got the title of a sponsor or obtained an abode in Poland, a written statement about their intention to take part in the Board activities.

Section.19.

The Board undertakes activity if there are at least three Board members who can take part in its works.

Section.20.

The Board is an organ with initiative, advisory and supervisory competencies.

Section.21.

The Board elects from its body - the Chairman, the Vice-chairman and the Foundation Board Secretary.

Section.21.

The Board works at the sessions that are held at least twice a year.

Section.22.

In the Board sessions takes part at least one Foundation Management member.

Section.24.

The Board resolutions are taken by an ordinary majority vote regardless of the number of the present members, but presence of the Chairman or Vice-chairman is compulsory.

Section.25.

The Board is responsible for :

a) submitting requests concerning the Foundation activity,
b) giving opinions on long-term and yearly activity plans,
c) expressing opinions on issues submitted by the Management,
d) reviewing yearly Management reports,
e) undertaking resolutions on the matters indicated in sections 33, 43, 44, 48 and 49 of the present Statute.

Section.26.

The Management of the Foundation consists of between three up to five people and is appointed by the Founders for an indeterminate time, acting together.

Section.27.

A founder may become a member of the Management.

Section.28.

The Founders acting together have the right to dismiss the Management or anyone of its members at any time.

Section.29.

The Management elect of its body - the Chairman, the Vice-chairman, and the Secretary of the Foundation.

Section.30.

The Management are responsible for making decisions on all matters that are not reserved for the Foundation Board competencies.

Section.31.

The Management in particular :

a) represent the Foundation outside,
b) decide on long-term and yearly Foundation activity plans,
c) administer the Foundation capital,
d) accept subventions, grants, inheritances, and legacies,
e) set up Foundation Bureau regulations,
f) create and cancel Foundation sections and its other organization units,
g) nominate and dismiss the Foundation Bureau Director and other staff and executive persons in organization units of the foundation,
h) establish the number of employees, payroll budget, bonuses and rewards for the Foundation employees, employed in the statutory as well as in economic activity,
i) make decisions on the subject of the Foundation Statute changes and its liquidation.

Section.32.

The Management may appoint, as its advisory body, a program commission consisting of the people concentrated around the Foundation ideas.

Section.33.

The Management Members, because of the performed duties, are paid and rewarded by the Board of the Foundation.

Section.34.

The Management vote resolutions by an ordinary majority vote, and for a resolution validity, presence of at least half of its members is required including the Foundation Chairman or Vice-chairman.

Section.35.

1. A volition declaration on the Foundation's behalf, make two Members of Management including the Chairman or the Vice-chairman.

Chapter V
FOUNDATION ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Section.36.

The Foundation may carry out, at home and abroad, according to the regulations pertaining within this domain, economic activity on :
- releasing publications relevant to the Foundation idea and activity;
- carrying out training and development of education materials.

Section.37.

Of the capital and incomes of the Foundation, the Management allocate, according to the needs, for the leading of economic activity, no more than the half of the opening fund and revenues obtained from economic activity.

Section.38.

The Foundation's economic activity is carried out in the organizationally separated form - throughout institutions and other organization units, further on referred to as 'institutions'.

Section.39.

1. The scope of activity of an institution and the competencies and responsibilities of institution managers are defined by the Foundation Management.
2. An institution manager manages that institution on an individual resposibility basis, bearing the responsibility for the institution performance to the Foundation Management, and he/she is, with reference to the contents of section 31 letter 'g' of the present Statute, the manager of a work establishment as defined by the Work Code.

Section.40.

The Management establish the number of employees and the means allocated for the particular institutions employees pay.

Section.41.

The Foundation runs financial control and accountancy records according to the regulations compulsory for legal entities.

Chapter VI
STATUTE CHANGES

Section.42.

A change of the Statute must not involve major changes of the Foundation goals.

Section.43.

Decisions on the subject of the Statute change are taken by the Foundation Management in the form of a unanimous resolution, and the resolution requires approving by the Foundation Board.

Chapter VII
FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

Section.44.

The Foundation can merge with another foundation in order to accomplish its goals more efficiently.

Section.45.

A merge may not occur if the goals of the Foundation would change significantly.

Section.46.

A decision concerning the merge is taken by the Foundation Management in the way of unanimous resolution undertaken after having got familiar with the relevant minister's opinion, and the resolution requires approving by the Foundation Board.

Section.47.

The Foundation gets liquidated in case of achieving the goals it was established for or in case of exhausting its financial resources and the capital.

Section.48.

A decision on the subject of the Foundation liquidation is taken by the Foundation Board in the way of a unanimous resolution, and the resolution requires approving by the Foundation Board.

Section.49.

The assets left after the liquidation of the Foundation are passed over, under the stipulation of art.5 par.4 of the act on foundations, institutions whose activity is in line with the Foundation goals.

Section.50.

The Statute becomes law on the day the Foundation is registered by the Regional Court for Warsaw the capital city.